

Message Text

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43

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 9676

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG, NI

SUBJ: VISIT OF NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
JOSEPH GARBA

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE SURPRISE VIST, NIGERIAN COMMISSINER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JOSHEPH GARBA ARRIVED IN KINSHASA NOVEMBER 3 SPENDING LESS THAN 48 HOURS DURING WHICH TIME HE SAW MOBUTU AND FOMIN BULA. GARBA TOLD PRESS, AFTER HIS MEETING WITH MOBUTU NOVEMBER 4, REASON FOR HIS VISIT WAS TO TRANSMIT MESSAGE FROM NIGERIAN HEAD OF STATE TO ZAIRIAN PRESIDENT, WHICH CONTAINED FRATERNAL AND PERSONAL SALUTATION FROM NIGERIAN CHIEF OF STATE AND NIGERIAN PEOPLE. GARBA ANNOUNCED THAT HE AND MOBUTU HAD DECIDED TO ESTABLISH ZAIRIAN-NIGERIAN MIXED COMMISSION WHICH WOULD MEET PERIODICALLY TO STUDY BILATERAL, AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT MOBUTU AND HE HAD REVIEWED ANGOLAN PROBLEM AND AGREED THAT PEACEFUL SOLUTION BETWEEN THREE ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS SHOULD TAKE PLACE "WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO WORK OF OAU." ZAIRE AND NIGERIA, HE SAID, INVITE LEADERS OF THREE MOVMENTS TO FORGET THE PAST AND TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO THE RECONSTRUCTION AND WELL BEING OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE.

2. IN ADDITION TO REPORTING VISIT BY GARBA, ZAIRIAN PRESS DEVOTED EDITORIALS TO NEED FOR CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN AFRICAN STATES. GARBA VISIT WAS PARTICULARLY NOTED. ELIMA, FOR EXAMPLE, POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS FIRST TIME SINCE CHANGE OF REGIME IN LAGOS THAT

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HIGH NIGERIAN OFFICAL HAD BEEN IN KINSHASA. HIS VISIT, IT WENT

ON, WAS BEING INTERPRETED AS SIGN OF NIGERIAN WILLINGNESS TO HAVE
CLOSER TIES WITH ZAIRE, WHICH, ALWAYS GOOD, WERE NEVERTHELESS
DISTANT DURING GOWON REGIME. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED WITH HOPE THAT
WITH NEW NIGERIAN REGIME, "RELATIONS BETWEEN 2 LARGEST STATES
OF AFRICA WILL ENTER A NEW ERA SINCE IT IS IN THEIR INTEREST
TO INCREASE COOPERATION."

3. SALONGO HAILED CREATION OF MIXED COMMISSION AS NECESSARY FOR
EFFECTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN STATES. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. COMMENT: BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. WITHIN THE LAST TWO
MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN STEADY STREAM OF AFRICAN VISITORS TO ZAIRE.
SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSIONS HAVE NOT BEEN REVEALED EXCEPT IN VERY
VAGUE TERMS RELATING TO GENERAL DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CONTACT. GOVERN-
MENT CONTROLLED PRESS HAS CHOSEN TO INTERPRET THESE COMINGS AND
GOINGS AS DEFINITE RECOGNITION OF MOBUTU AS UNDISPUTED LEADER IN
AFRICA. GARBA VISIT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF MIXED COMMISSION IS
LIKELY TO BE INTERPRETED AS NIGERIAN CONCESSION TO MOBUTU'S
CURRENT POSITION IN WAKE OF GOWON DISAPPEARANCE FROM AFRICAN
SCENE. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
WALKER

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NNN

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